

including a plurality of multimode base stations each capable of being operated selectively via a base station controller in at least some of said different operating protocols, wherein each base station controller has means for determining, for a said mobile terminal currently within an area served by that base station the operating protocol of that terminal and for downloading from a store associated with the base station controller a set of operating instructions for that protocol, and wherein the base station has selection means responsive to the determination by the base station controller of the operating protocol of a said mobile terminal for enabling a control means for that protocol so as to operate the base station in a mode consistent with that operating protocol.

Please amend claim 3.

In line 1, please replace "claim 2" with -claim 9-.

Please cancel claim 5 and replace with new independent claim 10 below.

10.(New) A method of setting up a connection between a terminal and a base station in a cellular mobile communications network adapted to service mobile terminals having different operating protocols so as to provide roaming facilities for those terminals, the network including a plurality of multimode base stations controlled via a base station controller and each comprising a plurality of protocol dedicated control units, a soft radio unit coupled to an antenna and arranged to function as a slave in both transmit and receive modes under the control of a selected one of said control units, the method comprising:

at the base station, relaying a mobile terminal request for service from the base station to the base station controller;

at the base station controller, determining in response to said service request the protocol required to service that request, downloading operating software into the base station controller, and sending a command signal to the base station identifying that protocol; and

at the base station, responsive to said command signal, selecting that one of said control units corresponding to the operating protocol for controlling the soft radio unit so as to establish communication with the mobile terminal.

Please amend claim 6.

In line 1, please replace "claim 5" with -claim -10-.

Please enter new claim 11 below.

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11.(New) A cellular mobile communications network adapted to service mobile terminals having different operating protocols so as to provide roaming facilities for those terminals, the network including a plurality of multimode base stations controlled via a base station controller and each comprising; a plurality of protocol dedicated control units, a soft radio unit coupled to an antenna and arranged to function as a slave in both transmit and receive modes under the control of a selected one of said control units, means for relaying a mobile terminal request for service to the base station controller, and selection means for selecting one of said control units in response to a command received from the base station received from the base station controller; wherein said base station controller has means for determining, from a said mobile terminal request for service, the one of said different operating protocols to be associated with that terminal, means for downloading, from a store associated with the base station controller, software operating instructions corresponding to the determined protocol so as to operate the base station controller in conformity with that protocol, and means for sending said command signal to the base station from which the request has been relayed so as to perform said control unit selection at that base station and thereby establish communication with the mobile terminal.

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Please enter new claim 12 below.

12.(New) A multimode base station for use in a cellular mobile communications network and arranged to service mobile terminals having different operating protocols so as to provide roaming facilities for those terminals, the base station comprising; a plurality of protocol dedicated control units one for each said operating protocol, a soft radio unit coupled to an antenna and arranged to function as a slave in both transmit and receive modes under the control of a selected one of said control units so as to communicate with a mobile terminal, means for relaying a request for service from that mobile terminal to the base station controller, and selection means for selecting one of said control units in response to a command received from the base station controller identifying a said operating protocol to be used in establishing communication with that mobile terminal.